

**THE MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL KNOWLEDGE OF
WILLIAM SHAKSPERE:
WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES**

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The Medical and Surgical Knowledge of William Shakspeare: With Explanatory Notes by John W. Wainwright

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BY
JOHN W. WAINWRIGHT, M. D.

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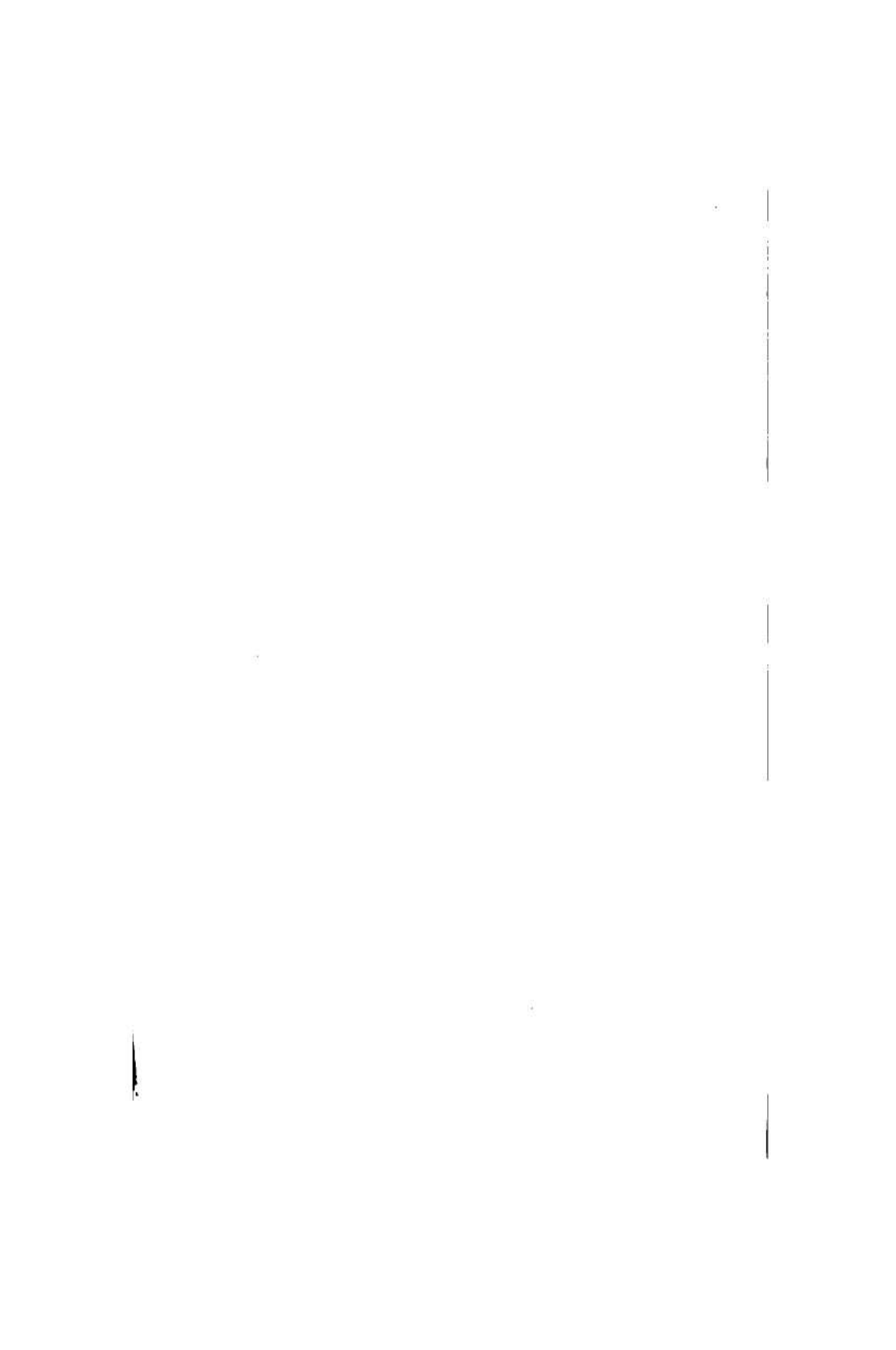
From the gift of W. H. Spaulding

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BY JOHN W. WAINWRIGHT, M. D.

FOURTH PRINTING

To Her, my companion for fifteen years; my inspiration, my critic; whose irreparable loss is accentuated from year to year, this small volume is dedicated with a continued and growing affection, by him whom she *Loved the best of all.*

THE AUTHOR



FOREWORD

The knowledge of science, art and literature displayed in Shakspeare's works has been the theme for many essays. Perhaps no other work has received so much attention from scholars, and if words were alone necessary to determine his rank among poets and dramatists certainly nothing further need be said.

Of the biographies, reviews, essays and criticisms there is no end. We are content to leave these, however, to such illustrious writers as Johnson, Spencer, Coleridge, Dowden, Malone, Hazlitt, Collier, Mrs. Jamison and others, ourselves directing the readers' attention to the many evidences presented of his knowledge of medicine and its collateral branches. Much threshing discloses the perfect grain, and perchance we may be so fortunate as to help make clear to the occasional reader of Shakspeare references obscure or not otherwise observed.

The quotations given will occasionally differ from those contained in the expurgated or stage editions so commonly made use of, while others will appear which are not familiar perhaps to the reader. They have been taken from an edition in the writer's possession printed in 1796 by Bellamy and Roberts, London, now unfortunately out of print, and from a more modern one by Charles Knight, both of which give the plays as they appeared in the "original copies of the first folio edition of 1623."

Let it be understood that all the references relating to medicine are by no means given, but only such as are of greater interest. In some instances the meaning may seem obscure. Then matter is introduced which cannot be considered strictly medical, to render the quotations more clear, not only to the medical man, but to the layman into whose hands the book may come.

If the writer shall succeed in helping to create a greater interest in the writings of Shakspeare he will feel amply rewarded for his efforts, a labor of love.

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